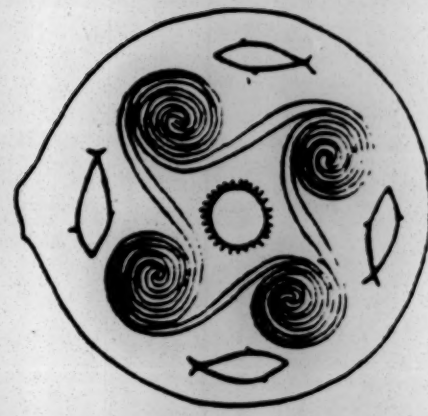


SPIRAL PATH



Volume 4

BRIGID

Issue 1

TOWN HALL MEETING

Thanks to Jo and Marione for organizing and facilitating Spiral's first semiannual Town Hall Meeting. Discussion was animated, covering diverse topics ranging from Spiral Path's history and identity, our philosophy of professional ministry, similarities and differences between Spiral and COG, to how to assimilate a variety of traditions and leadership styles into our community and organizational structure.

Cassette tapes of the discussions are available through Marione. Call her at (916) 442-6569 and make arrangements if you are interested in listening to the discussion and contributing your feedback. Comments may be directed through circle leaders and board members to the Spiral Board or to Spiral News. There is definitely room for a comments and opinions column...submissions would be welcome.

Spiral is presently in a period of reflecting on its identity and determining how best to structure itself to serve all the individuals and groups affiliated through it. What kind of "beast" we end up with depends on your input, so don't miss this chance to contribute your ideas!

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE. ANYONE?

Shirin has volunteered to head a committee that will review Spiral's By-Laws. To participate, contact her at (415) 639-0783.

LITURGY OF THE LADY

The Liturgy, an elaborate formal public ritual worshipping the Triple Goddess in her myriad forms, has been performed the last Sunday of the month in Berkeley and also in a variety of festival or conference settings for the last nine years. The Liturgy has also been celebrated monthly in the Sacramento area for the last two years. This ritual has been an introduction to Goddess worship for many people and is often an individual's first contact with Spiral. The Liturgy has also been an invaluable training ground for new priestesses and priests in the conduct of open public rituals.

For the last several years, Diana Paxson has coordinated Liturgy participation in Berkeley and has done an excellent job in spite of her busy schedule. Charline (415) 638-7669 has agreed to take over the task and is now the person to contact about participation in the Berkeley Liturgies or supplies and details for same. Special thanks to Diana for her years of diligent work and to Charline for taking on this new responsibility.

Many thanks to Emily, who has coordinated the Sacramento Liturgy. Since she will no longer be doing so, the monthly Liturgy in Sacramento will only continue if someone comes forward and volunteers to coordinate it. At present only two Liturgies are planned during the next few months:

(continued on page 2)

(Liturgy, continued from page 1)

one at Whole Earth Festival and one at the CSUS Women's History celebration. Contact Emily at (916) 442-8079 regarding the Whole Earth Liturgy, which will honor Changing Woman, and Marione at (916) 442-6569 regarding the Women's History Liturgy.

Major changes are in the works for the Liturgy. In November, Anya celebrated her newly created Mass of the Lord and Lady for the first time with the help of Don Frew. (Contact her at 845-4004 for more information.) Various folks in Sacramento are talking about creating less formal versions. Let's hope the change and variety enriches our experience without scattering our energy or losing our focus. The Liturgy and what it represents are an important part of our emerging heritage.

ETHICS GROUP: A SHORT REPORT

Annie Agard, John McClimans, Robbie and myself have met semi-regularly all fall to discuss Pagan Ethics. We have examined such topics as the cosmological and philosophical underpinnings of our ethics, some common Pagan ethical precepts, and what methods of study and personal reflection might be most effective for us as modern neopagans. We would be glad to form classes, seminars or workshops for circles or other groups drawing on our interest and experience with this topic. Contact me, Dianna Mari Bearchild at 881-5524.

LUNACIRCA SAMHAIN VOLUNTEERS

Luna Circa is in charge of the next Samhain ritual for South Bay Circles and is seeking volunteers to help with costumes, etc. as well as take part in the ritual, which will feature 16 priestesses. South Bay Circles ceremonies are by invitation only, so to attend or participate, contact Shari Storm of Luna Circa at (408) 739-9198.

RITUAL REVIEWS

Emily led a Vodoun Samhain ritual which featured drumming and dancing, feasting and drink to honor the loa, Vodoun deities. An altar to each loa was decorated with appropriate objects, including his or her favorite foods and drink and a tarot deck. Lots of wild energy was raised and a good time was had by all, loa included. Plans are to hold this event again next year.

The Spiral Yule ritual starred two of our youngest pagans as Sun Babies, who were carried around the circle and blessed by the elements. Each circle lit a candle on the central altar, and banners were paraded. The ritual celebrated our sense of connection with each other in Spiral.

Diane led a Nahuatl ritual for Darkmoon in which Tlazolteotl, the Aztec mother goddess, kills her son, Huitzilopochtli, the war god. Goddesses and circle members became magically pregnant with new male energy (less bloodthirsty, it is hoped).

These are just three of the rituals I have attended in the past few months. Spiral's diversity and talent astounds me!

- Robbie Wise

SPIRAL WOMEN WITHOUT CHILDREN

I've always known I would not bear a child. I'd like to explore the feelings surrounding this decision by creating a ritual affirming who we are. What do we create if not children? How do we relate to children? Are we emotionally unattached Maidens? (Yes, I've read Goddesses in Everywoman.) If interested, contact Nancy at (415) 751-8918 (SF). Location of the work will depend upon the needs of the participants.

WHOLE EARTH FESTIVAL

The first full weekend in May (4-5) Spiral will have a booth at the Whole Earth Festival in Davis. As in past years, the Sacramento folks are taking the lead in establishing this important public information service. The Festival enables us to connect with others in that area who may be interested in circling with us or affiliating their circle with Spiral. We did a symposium on the Return of the Goddess last year, which was attended by thirty to fifty people and consisted of a panel discussion followed by a short ritual. The liturgy was also performed.

Since the symposium was popular and effective, it would be great to hold another one this year. Suggestions on topics? Would anyone like to do a meditation - perhaps Healing the Earth? Connecting with the Goddess (and God)? Tarot readers and folks to help out at the booth who can explain what Spiral is in a succinct and enthusiastic manner are also needed. The festival is lots of fun, and Spiral members are also encouraged to show up for the fun of it, or to attend a powerful liturgy honoring Changing Woman, which will be held on Sunday. Contact Emily at (916) 442-8079.

OLD RELIGION CLASS

A new cycle of the Old Religion Classes covering Craft basics will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship Office Building's Fireside Room. At a sliding scale of \$3 to \$5, these classes are the best deal going for folks just learning as well as for those who wish to review. Annie Agard will be co-coordinating this new series with Diana Paxson, who has led them for the past two years. Look for the class dates and topics in the Spiral calendar, at the back of this issue.

CAMP WOMBAT STRIKES AGAIN!

April 1 has grown into a unique Spiral tradition, known as Wombat Wicca. By last year, the original irreverent picnic and spoofs of pagan ways, manners, and ritual had grown into a full weekend campout. This year both ways of celebrating the great feast of Wombat will be combined. The campout will be coordinated by Charline, and she has agreed to structure events so that those who are unable to spend the whole weekend will be able to join the campers for the hilarity on the first. She has also hinted that there will be a Southeast Native American ritual during the weekend. If interested in attending and/or contributing your ideas and talent to this event, call 638-7669 or write Charline at 6973 Simson St., Oakland, CA 94605.

OTHER CLASSES BY SPIRAL FOLKS

Ancient Ways has published a January through March calendar of classes, and several are being taught by Spiral people. John McClimans is offering several guided meditations and a Tarot class. Barbara Glass is teachin' kitchen witchin'. Diana is teaching a class on runes, Shirin giving an herb walk, and Leigh Ann Hussey offering an afternoon of European Shamanism. All the offerings sound exciting, and if one is prepared to spend \$10 to \$25 or so, well worth checking out. You can get your own copy of the Ancient Ways calendar from the store at 41st and Telegraph in Oakland.

EAST BAY DRUMMING CIRCLE

Encouraged by the success of Nightspell, John McClimans has opened his home for an East Bay drumming circle the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 pm. Call John for more information and directions at 639-0783. Bring your own drums, rattles or whatever!

WALKING SOFTLY ON THE EARTH

A cycle of teaching on the Earth Spirit
Tuesdays, 6-9 pm (includes dinner)
Elder: Nadine Free-to-Be
Incorporating teachings on the Medicine
Wheel, Tree of Life, Divination,
Womanspirit, Earth Ways, Womb Power,
and the craft of the Wise Woman.
Each quarterly cycle will have a
seasonal focus. Co-ed, puberty up.
Closed after second meeting.

1st Cycle: Maiden/Youth Feb-Apr 89
2nd Cycle: Mother/Father May-Jul 89
3rd Cycle: Warrior Path Aug-Oct 89
4th Cycle: Crone/Sage Nov-Jan 90

Next Orientation: Feb. 7, 7 pm
1121 22nd St. (off "L")
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 442-6569

Contact: Earthspirit, 1576 42nd St.,
Sacramento, CA 95819 (916) 452-2445

The SPIRAL PATH is the official publication of The Fellowship of the Spiral Path, an association of neo-pagan circles, with member circles extending from the South San Francisco Bay area through the East Bay area to the Sacramento area. The newsletter provides a calendar of Spiral events, announcements of special classes, events or projects and an opportunity for individual circles and the governing board of the organization to communicate with each other.

Informational items will not have by-lines. Items expressing personal opinion will have by-lines, and are not intended to express the official opinion either of the newsletter or of Spiral as a whole, but to encourage thought and debate on items of interest and importance to us all.

Pagan-appropriate clip art, short feature articles and quarterly scheduling information should be submitted to Spiral News c/o Diane and Robbie, 3281 Kelly Street, Hayward, CA 94541, (415) 881-5524. The following is the yearly cycle of scheduling and submission deadlines:

ISSUE	COVERING	DEADLINE
Feb 1, Brigid	Feb to Apr	Jan 1
May 1, Beltane	May to Jul	Apr 1
Aug 1, Lamas	Aug to Oct	Jul 1
Nov 1, Samhain	Nov to Jan	Oct 1

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the last meeting, the Spiral board decided that the newsletter would be responsible for collecting its own subscription fees. Past policy has saddled the circle leaders with the responsibility for this task, leaving no sure way of keeping records. Direct mailing of subscriptions and change of addresses ensures better service. Fill out and mail the following subscription form with a check payable to The Fellowship of the Spiral Path. If you have already paid for part of the current year, please check the upcoming issue that should begin your next yearly subscription cycle.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Starting Issue: _____ Feb 1, 1989

_____ May 1, 1989

_____ Aug 1, 1989

_____ Nov 1, 1989



New address? New subscription?

Yes ___ No ___ Yes ___ No ___

C i r c l e
affiliation(s): _____

Enclosed is \$5.00 subscription
fee

_____ extra donation (to cover
complimentary _____ issues for new
members and networking)

Mail to: Spiral News
c/o Diane & Robbie
3281 Kelly St.
Hayward, CA 94541

EARTHSPIRIT

Men, women and children remembering,
resurrecting, inventing and honoring
the duality of the Universe and the
sacredness of Mother Earth. We walk
Earth Ways Warrior Path. HO!
First meeting Sunday, Feb. 5, 1989.
Seeking members for a closed, co-ed,
puberty-up family-oriented circle.
Meetings first and third Sundays and
when called. Elder: Nadine Free-to-Be
Contact Earthspirit, 1576 42nd St.,
Sacramento, CA 95819 (916) 452-2445.

SPIRAL CALENDAR

All events are at 7:30 pm unless otherwise listed.

FEBRUARY

2	Brigid's Fire	Cording/Encircling	TBA	TBA
		bring robes, tools		
5	Earthspirit	1st meeting	Nadine	see article above
6	Dark Moon	Healing the Circle	Charline	Shirin's
			& Shirin	
7	Mystery Circle	TBA		BFUU
7	Walking Softly	1st meeting - 7pm	Nadine	see article above
8	Rune Class	TBA		Greyhaven
9	Nightspell			Emily's
10	Tarot	Death		Charline's
10	Sisters Workcircle	Crone Goddesses		Sapphire's
10	MOONTYDE	POETRY AROUND THE CAULDRON	DIANA M'S	
14	Old Religion	Doing Ritual	Diana	BFUU
15	Brigid's Fire	Rebirthing Rite	Kathleen	Vacaville
		MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY		
16	Serpent's Egg	Trance		Charline's
17	LUNA CIRCA	TBA		
18	Pagana Cabal	Kether		Emily's
19	Earthspirit			see above
20	Dark Moon	Full Moon Ritual	Diana	Greyhaven
21	E. Bay Drumming	1st meeting		John's
23	Nightspell			Emily's
24	Sisters	Taking a Crone as Guide	Sapphire's	
24	MOONTYDE	YOGA RELAXATION TECHNIQUES	DIANA M'S	
26	E. Bay Liturgy	Brigid's Fire -	TBA	BFUU, 8 pm
28	Equinox	Vodoun Brigit's	Emily	TBA

MARCH

2	Brigid's Fire	The Maiden	Anya	Anya's
5	Earthspirit			see above
5	Dark Moon	Isis Ritual	Diane	TBA
7	Mystery Circle	TBA		BFUU
8	Rune Class	TBA		Greyhaven
9	Nightspell			Emily's
10	Tarot	Temperance		Charline's
10	Sisters Workcircle	Personal Spirituality	Catherine's	
10	MOONTYDE	MAGIC I		THE RANCH
14	Old Religion	Spring Festival	Meaning &	BFUU
		Folklore		
14	Brigid's Fire	TBA		TBA
16	Serpent's Egg	TBA		Charline's
17	LUNA CIRCA	TBA		TBA
19	Earthspirit			see above
19	ALL SPIRAL	BOARD MEETING		EMILY'S, 2 pm
21	E. Bay Drumming			John's
22	Dark Moon	Encircling/ Rebonding	Diana & Charline	Greyhaven

MARCH (cont'd)

23	Nightspell		Emily's
24	MOONTYDE	MAGIC II	TBA
24	Sisters	TBA	Catherine's
26	E. Bay Liturgy	Equinox Circle - TBA	BFUU, 8 pm
28	Equinox	Spring Equinox TBA	TBA
31	Brigid's Fire	TBA Sarah	Sarah's

APRIL

1-2	ALL SPIRAL	CAMP WOMBAT	TBA
2	Earthspirit		see above
4	Mystery Circle	TBA	BFUU
5	Dark Moon	Journey to Matriarchy Nancy	Barbara's
6	Nightspell		Emily's
7	MOONTYDE	MAGIC III	TBA
7	Tarot	The Devil	Charline's
10	Brigid's Fire	Divination	TBA
11	Old Religion	The Four Elements	BFUU
12	Rune Class	TBA	Greyhaven
13	Serpent's Egg	TBA	Charline's
14	LUNA CIRCA	TBA TBA	TBA
14	Sisters	Spelljam	TBA
15	Pagana Cabal	Coming Down the Tree	Emily's
16	Earthspirit		see above
18	E. Bay Drumming		John's
20	Nightspell		Emily's
21	Dark Moon	Planning and mini-ritual	Shirin's
25	Equinox	TBA TBA	TBA
28	Sisters Workcircle	Stitch and Bitch	Elinor's
30	MOONTYDE	BELTANE CELEBRATION--TIME	TBA THE RANCH
30	E. Bay Liturgy	Dark Moon Nancy	BFUU, 8 pm
		Jehanne la Pucelle	

All Spiral events: plain type, all capitals.
 East Bay circles: plain type, first letter capitalized.
 Sacramento circles: italic type, first letter capitalized.
 South Bay circles: italic type, all capitals.

LIST OF SPIRAL-AFFILIATED GROUPS

EAST BAY

Darkmoon Circle (closed, women), Annie Agard, 415-527-8567
 Tarot symposium (mixed), Charline Palmtag, 415-638-7669
 Serpent's Egg (women), Charline Palmtag, 415-638-7669
 Equinox Circle (closed, mixed), Cedar Sposato, 415-848-5076
 Mystery Circle (mixed), Dr. Dirt, 415-848-1994
 Brigid's Fire (women), Madelaine, 415-845-6816
 Arktoi (girls 10-15), Gretchen Pfeil, 415-674-1294
 Changers Changing, Annie Agard, 415-527-8567
 (an open circle for women processing change)
 Ethics Discussion Group (mixed), Diana Mari Bearchild, 415-881-5524
 Rune Class (mixed), Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033
 Intro. to Old Religion class, Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033
 Liturgy of the Lady, Diana L. Paxson, 415-658-6033

(cont'd on back page)

Spiral-Affiliated Groups (cont'd)

SACRAMENTO

Pagana Cabal (closed, mixed), Emily Garlick, 916-442-8079
Sisters of the Circle (closed, women), Phoenix, 916-756-1814
Brothers of Balance (men), Tom Hooper 916-739-1396
Crossroads (teaching circle), Yael 916-443-7876 or Alpha 991-1421
Walking Softly on the Earth (teaching circle), Nadine, 916-452-2445
Earthspirit (closed after 2nd mtg, mixed), Nadine, 916-452-2445

SOUTH BAY

MOONTYDE CIRCLE (women), Santa Cruz, Maia, 408-475-2678
LUNACIRCA (women), San Jose, Shari Storm, chancellor, 408-739-9198
or Beth McWilliams, secretary, (415) 846-6406

We follow an Earth Religion, focused on reclaiming the old ways of relating to the earth as sacred, to each other in the here and now. Sometimes we rather pride ourselves on our enlightenment. Even Greenpeace doesn't honor Gaia like we do! It is therefore a shock to find that pillar of the Establishment, TIME magazine, making Earth its honoree of the year.

I admit to an initial response of "Well, finally, the rest of the world is catching up with US!" But the TIME feature is forcing me to rethink my relationship to the rest of the world.

Should I respond to the global crisis by repenting my consumeristic ways and becoming a rabid Environmental Activist? Should we as pagans run out to join some of those organizations that are already fighting the good fight so visibly? If we do, we could look for ways to let our fellow-members know that you don't have to be Third World to get into earth-centered spirituality. Maybe we could look for ways of adapting the Buddhist eightfold way--What are "right action", or "right livelihood" in pagan terms?

The grape boycott still goes on. Unlike most labor protests, this one is not about pay--it's about pesticides that are killing the grape pickers. What does the current lack of support for the boycott say about the general attitude towards health (of earth or people) versus profits?

In these crises, are there contributions that we pagans are uniquely fitted to make? In the Old Religion, we treat the body and the soul as a whole. Perhaps we should be thinking about ways in which we can strengthen Gaia's spirit too.

The old European cycle of festivals originally evolved to put humans in harmony with seasonal changes, and to enable them to contribute energy to order and balance in the transition from one time of year to the next. As we plan our festivals, we should bear this in mind. When we do healing circles for human beings, we can run a round for the Earth as well. We might also try to add to our knowledge of ways to re-energize the Earth--identifying power points and strengthening them. We could start with existing Amerindian knowledge about the spiritual ecology of the land. Perhaps if we learn how to listen, Earth herself will tell us what she needs.

When even TIME is calling for action, how can we be silent? If the current environment is destroyed, as I cough out my lungs I'd like to be able to think I had done everything in my power to preserve what the Goddess took millions of years to create.

How about some coordinated discussion of Earth healing in the newsletter? What have you done that's worked well? What do you know? What do you wish you could do?

Blessed be--Diana L. Paxson (from a letter to the CoG newsletter)

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